



Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1
April 24, 2015



Region 1 Wildli Report

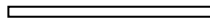
North District

DATE: 04-23-2015

Butte/Lawrence/Meade/Perkins Counties/Ziebach

Reporting Officers: DCOS Mike Apland, WCO Bill Eastman. WCO Keith Mutschler, WCO Ross Fees

Fishing -



- **Butte County**
 - **Belle Fourche Res/Orman** – Fishermen are having some luck with walleye.
- **Lawrence**
 - All lakes are open and the spring trout stocking schedule has begun
- **Meade County**
 - **Durkee Lake** – Not much fishing pressure.
- **Perkins County**
 - **Shadehill Reservoir** – Catfish and a few walleye are being caught. As the water warms up a little the fishing should improve. Most anglers have been fishing from shore.

- **Grand River** -Anglers fishing in the grand river have been picking up a few walleye, northern pike and catfish.
- **Flat Creek** – A few northern and walleye are being caught.
- **Ziebach Co.**
 - Not much fishing pressure.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – A great time to get out and see a good variety of waterfowl.

Small Game – No report

Big Game

Turkey – Spring Turkey season opens this weekend. Some of the larger groups are starting to break up into smaller groups. Most successful hunters are doing well in the morning.

Land Report: This time of the year the department is signing up land for next years public hunting programs. If interested in learning more about such programs contact your local conservation officer.



Misc.

- **HuntSafe** – Classes are currently being scheduled across the state. Visit the GFP website under outdoor learning to check for upcoming classes in your area. If you don't see a class in your area, check periodically for updates to come.

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- **Lawrence Co.** – Recently SDGFP has released Big Horn sheep in the Deadwood area. If you see the new additions, be careful and enjoy. The Sheep are still getting use to their new environment and we appreciate the locals support!!

Report Region 1 Wildlife

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

Central District

**Reporting Officers: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen
DCOS McCormick**

DATE: 4/1/2015

Black Hills area lakes and streams:

Angler success in the Black Hills lakes is up from last week. Last week anglers (on Pactola) were catching Lake Trout and Northern Pike early in the mornings from a boat, but this week shore anglers have been successful in landing nice Lakers as well.

Fish were active in the afternoon on Rapid Creek below Pactola. Blue-Wing Olive and Black Stoneflies were hatching in the mid afternoon and some nice Browns were caught and released.

Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

Wildlife:

Spring Black Hills Turkey Season started this past Saturday. Hunters were fairly successful in the Central District. Many hunters have found more success in the Southern Hills.

If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain



anonymous and assist Officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2015 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with the individuals involved and changing their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

Region 1 Wildlife Report

Southern District

Date: 4/21/2015

County: **Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson**

Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck

Fishing Activity:

Angling was slow last week because of the rains. Once it dries out again, the bass should be continuing to bite in the shallows on private farm ponds on sunny days.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl –There are lots of white pelicans on Pelican Island on LaCreek Refuge. They can be found on many of the ponds around the area when they are out feeding.

The Bennett County Special Goose Season has been recommended to be changed to being a part of the Unit 2 Goose Season.

Small Game – Pheasant numbers still look good. The recent moisture has us optimistic that we will have some spring growth of cover and a good nesting season.

Big Game – Elk applications are now available for the 2015 seasons. Many areas have more licenses than last year. You will also notice there are more archery elk permits in some areas as uniformity was established in regards to numbers of rifle vs archery permits. Deer seasons have been proposed at the regional level and are in the process of being reviewed prior to the official proposals at the commission level. Antelope seasons will be proposed at the regional level later this month.

Land Report: (short note on any special issue regarding land or access)

We are presently working on the 2015 Walk in Hunting enrollment. If you know of anyone that may be interested in enrolling their land in the program, please have them contact me. Deadline for enrollments is May 1st. The grass seeding on former crop land on the Todd GPA is progressing. Many of the old farm fields are being converted to grass. In addition, several new tree plantings are progressing on those fields.

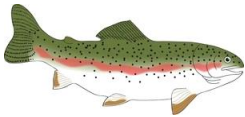


Date: 4/21/2015

County: West Custer/West Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing:



Deerfield: Trout fishing has been improving on Deerfield. We are going to be stocking Lake Trout into Deerfield soon.

Rapid Creek: The creek has finally dropped to a fishable level and the fishing is starting to pick up. BWO emergers and stoneflies were working well

Big Game:

Turkey: Lots of Jakes are available for harvest this year. Turkeys are gobbling but are still breeding hens at the moment. Hunting should improve in coming weeks. I have yet to see anyone harvest a bird over two years old.

Elk: Elk applications are due in May. Unit two has the most opportunities for cow harvest, there likely will be leftover cow licenses this year. There also will be an increase in available archery tags this year, which should even up the draw odds. Currently archery is more difficult to draw than rifle due to limited tag numbers.

District Report: There will be a Huntsafe class in Custer starting tonight April 21st, the class will be held at Southern Hills Tactical. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website.

If you are interested in enrolling in Walk-In-Area please contact me. Also if you have not had landowner elk tags in the past and are eligible you must contact me before you apply!

If you have any information about a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



Date: 4/21/2015

County: East Custer/South Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietsoort

Fishing Activity:

With the nice weather, fishermen have been out trying their luck with good success on trout at Legion, Sylvan and Center Lake.

Fishing has been excellent at Stockade Lake for crappie and bluegill, and as the water continues to warm success just gets better.

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes were all drained for the fall and winter and the clean out has been completed. Some fish were removed and transferred to other waters.

Bismarck and Horse thief lakes have been filling back up, it's a slow process but as soon as they are full they will be stocked with trout from the area hatcheries.

Lakota lake is mostly full and has been stocked with catchable rainbow trout.

Big Game:

Spring Turkey season is underway in the Black Hills and on the prairie. I have seen some happy hunters that have bagged their tom turkeys already.

The GFP commission adopted a rule to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions on the prairie outside of the Black Hills.

Please be respectful of private property, we have been busy taking calls in regards to hunters trespassing on private lands this fall.

District Report:

There will be a Huntsafe class in Hill City starting April 23rd, the class will be held at the Hill city fire dept. classroom. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website. As always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tip hotline 1-888-683-7224.

Ospreys have been moving in to the nesting areas, several pairs have been setting up at area lakes. A new nesting platform was installed recently at Lakota Lake in cooperation with SDGFP and Black Hills power and light.

Date: 4/21/2015

County: **Fall River**

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

Fishing Activity:



Fishermen continue to do well on Angostura. Tournament this weekend saw some nice fish taken. The spawn appears to be over and fish are moving into their mid-spring patterns. Minnows, jigs, and crankbaits producing the best.



Hunting Report:

Small Game - Game birds appear to have come through the winter well. Hopefully favorable conditions will come this year during the nesting season and we get the much needed moisture soon to increase cover conditions.

Big Game – Turkey hunters appear to be doing ok this month. The birds appear to be spread out a lot more than most years. I assume this is do to the mild winter we had. There are still plenty of gobblers out there and they are very active yet.

Land Report:

We are currently working on grazing and farming leases for the GFP properties. Also, Walk-In Area sign up will begin shortly. If you have land or know someone who has quality hunting property please consider using this program. It has been very popular and successful over the years.

District Report:

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don't hesitate to call the TIP's Hotline or the local Sheriff's Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!